beyond the normal tenure only in exceptional circumstances.

Investment under section 80-DDA of the Income Tax Act

1783. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Finance Act, 1998 limit for investment under Section 80-DDA of the Income Tax Act has been enhanced to Rs. 40,000. Whereas in actual practice there is not a single scheme prevalent as on date for investment under the said clause either by LIC or UTI; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to instruct UTI/LIC to restart any of the schemes for investment under Section 80-DDA; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) By the Finance Act, 1998 the nitherto existing sections 80 DD and 80 DDA were merged together to form a new section 80 DD, which comes into effect from assessment year 1999-2000 onwards. Under the new section 80 DD, the overall limit has been enhanced to Rs. 40,000/-. It is not correct to say that there are no schemes for availing the benefit.

The Jeevan Adhar plan of LIC available before the Finance Bill, 1998 continues to be available under the new provision. The Childrens Growth Fund 1986, which had a Special Plan for handicapped in terms of section 80 DDA of the Income-tax Act was suspended with effect from 1st November, 1997.

(b) As stated above, the LIC's Jeevan Adhar Plan is available for availing tax benefits. However, because of high income distribution in relation to current interest rates, the special plan for the handicapped under the Childrens Growth Fund, 1986 was suspended. The Unit Trust of India is again contemplating on relaunching the special plan for handicapped.

न्यायिक प्रणाली में सुधार

1784. **प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादव:**
श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक:

क्या विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या तीस हजारी अदालत के किसी न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट द्वारा न्यायपालिका क्षेत्र में सुधार हेतु सुझाव देते हुए कोई पत्र (न्यायिक लोकपाल व्यवस्था लागू करने या न्यायिक आयोग के गठन का सुझाव) प्रधानमंत्री को दिया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पत्र में दिए गए सुझाव का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) उपरोक्त सुझाव पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है और सरकार का इस संबंध में क्या निर्णय लेने का प्रस्ताव है?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री एम॰ थम्बी दुरई): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Unfair Trade Practices by H.B. Portfolio and Leasing Company

1785. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several complaints have been received against H.B. Portfolio and Leasing Company for indulging in various unfair trade practices; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) An application under Section 12B of the MRTP Act 1969, filed on 17.1.96 by Ms. Anka Sharma against H.B. Portfolio Leasing Ltd. claiming compensation of Rs.

52,391/- is pending before the MRTP Commission. The matter was last heard on 15.10.98 and is again listed before the Commission on 4.1.99. Another application filed by Ms. Alka Sharma under Section 36B(a) of the MRTP Act has been dismissed by the Commission.

Amendment in Hindu Marriage Act

1786. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet has recently approved the proposal to amend the Hindu Marriage Act is reported in the Statesman dated the 18th September, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of amendments likely to be made in the Act; and

(c) the purpose of making such amendments in the Act?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) The news item referred to in the question related to the decision of the Government to further pursue in Parliament the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997 which was introduced in Rajya Sabha on the 13th August, 1997. The Bill seeks further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 so as to omit references to 'epilepsy' in those Acts.

Discrepancies in Identity Cards issued to Voters

1787. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission had some years back introduced the scheme of issuing identity cards to the voters in the country; if so, the number of identity cards issued so far State-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred State-wise and the number of cards yet to be issued;

(c) whether any time frame was fixed to cover all voters; and

(d) whether Government are aware of large scale of complaints of voters about discrepancies/errors in the I-cards and also in the voters list; if so, the remedial steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) Statement-I showing number of photo identity cards issued State-wise as on 31.10.98 and Statement-II showing the amount released by the Central Government to various States for implementation of the scheme of photo identity cards are laid on the Table of the House. *(See* below)

(c) The Election Commission had initially fixed 30th November, 1994 as the deadline for the completion of the scheme. This deadline was, however, extended from time to time and it was last extended upto 31st March, 1996. No fresh deadline thereafter was fixed as issue of photo identity cards is a continuous programme.

(d) The complaints regarding discrepancies/errors in the identity cards and in voters lists as received, are looked into by the concerned District Election Officers/Electoral Registration Officers and necessary rectifications are carried out.